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21 December 2018

To: Recipients of FSD Circular Letters

Dear Sir/Madam,

FSD Circular Letter No. 3/2018

**Revised Testing Standards for Static Tanks
for Storage of Category 5 Class 1 and Class 2 Dangerous Goods in Bulk**

This letter serves to announce the details of the revised testing standards for static tanks for storage of Category 5 Class 1 and Class 2 dangerous goods (DG) subsequent to a review of the relevant fire safety requirements. The revised testing standards are scheduled to come into effect from 1 April 2019.

Under the current requirements, static tanks for storage of Category 5 Class 3 DG shall be tested by a Competent Person¹ for leakage hydraulically or pneumatically at a minimum pressure of 70 kPa for a period of not less than one hour before being put into commission as stipulated in FSD Circular Letter No. 7/2016 issued on 22 December 2016. It has been the view of this Department that the testing requirements for all classes of Category 5 DG should be brought under the same set of standards. As part of the review, consultations have been held with representatives of the concerned professional bodies, major stakeholders as well as relevant government departments. The issue has also been raised and discussed in the Dangerous Goods Standing Committee (DGSC).

This Department, in collaboration with the DGSC, has critically examined the existing international standards including the “Guidance for the Storage and Dispensing of E5 Petrol and B5 Diesel at Filling Stations” published by the Energy Institute, the relevant

¹ Competent Person refers to a Registered Professional Engineer in “Marine & Naval Architecture Discipline” or “Mechanical Discipline” or an “Authorized Surveyor” under Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap 548) or the “Boiler Inspector” under Boilers and Pressure Vessels Ordinance (Cap 56).

British Standards as well as the National Fire Protection Association standards, and come to the conclusion that static tanks for storage of Category 5 Class 1 and Class 2 DG shall be subject to the same testing standards now governing static tanks for storage of Category 5 Class 3 DG (i.e. to be tested by a Competent Person for leakage hydraulically or pneumatically at a minimum pressure of 70 kPa for a period of not less than one hour before being put into commission). In addition, requirements shall be imposed on the tank owners concerned to submit a full set of designs and specifications of such tanks, including, among others, the thickness of the wall, the dimensions and volume of the tank and the material used, to the Director of Fire Services for applications for licences and/or approvals.

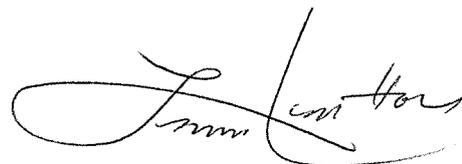
Please note that the aforementioned testing standards do not apply to:

- (i) any tank which is classified as the “Oil storage installation” within the meaning of section 2 of the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123); and
- (ii) any fuel tank with a capacity of 500 litres or below storing Category 5 Class 3 DG for the purpose of supplying fuel to an emergency generator for any fire service installation or equipment or for an emergency power backup facility.

With effect from 1 April 2019, the revised testing standards shall be applicable to all initial applications for licences and/or approvals, as the case may be, for static tanks for storage of all classes of Category 5 DG.

Details about the general fire safety requirements for storage of Category 5 DG in static tanks are available on our website (<http://www.hkfsd.gov.hk/eng/source/licensing/DG/index.html>). For further enquiries, please contact our Dangerous Goods Division at 2417 5757.

Yours faithfully,



(LEUNG Kwun-hong)

for Director of Fire Services

c.c. Members of DGSC